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RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. FAITH'S
AND AYLSHAM

THE
Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

TOGETHER WITH THE

**REPORT OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

(H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)

1954

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor
and Inspector under Petroleum Acts:*

H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. R. FRYER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

B. J. PALMER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

J. TOWNSEND, A.R.SAN.I.

J. R. PARRY, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (from 13.9.54).

H. G. WATKIN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (from 17.9.54).

Chief Clerk:

MISS P. RAY (to 30.3.54).

Clerical Staff:

C. WATSON (SENIOR CLERK from 1.5.54).

MRS. M. SMITH.

J. KIDD.

E. F. PUMMELL.

R. N. BARRETT (from 8.6.54).

Assistant Surveyor:

F. B. ALVES, A.M.S.E., A.I.A.S. (to 23.12.54).

Temporary Technical Assistant:

W. G. CHASTNEY, A.I.B.E.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faith's and Aylsham

NORFOLK

for the Year ending 31st December, 1954

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The estimated mid-year population was 38,460, an increase of 510 since 1953.

CENSUS ANALYSIS.

With the publication this year of the 1951 Census Report for Norfolk, it is now possible to extract figures showing how the population has altered in this rural district since 1921 and 1931.

The 20 years (1931—1951) have brought a larger increase in the population of the County than in any intercensal period since 1831. This tendency was most marked in the rural districts, although some of this was due to immigration from the towns within the county, and was balanced by a 10% decrease in their population.

The Administrative County showed a 9.2% increase between 1931 and 1951 compared with 0.2% in the previous decade. This 9.2% was made up of 7% natural increase and 2.2% immigration. The corresponding figures for the total of the rural districts were 19.6% (8.7% being natural increase and 10.9% due to immigration) while for St. Faith's and Aylsham Rural District the total increase was 46.7% (15.3% natural increase and 31.4% immigration). The comparative numbers in the various age groups showed that the district had fewer babies under four years but more schoolchildren, fewer young adults under 34 and more between 35 and 54, than the County average, the average of all Rural Districts or of England and Wales. Of those over 55 the District had less than the County average and average for Rural Districts but more than the average for England and Wales. The distribution of the district's large new population of 11,981 is also of interest. A scrutiny of parish figures will show that three quarters

of them lived in the fringe parishes of Hellesdon, Sprowston and Old Catton. The other quarter (2,989) were distributed over thirty of the forty-eight parishes and it is notable that the smaller places nearest to the fringe area had increased the most.

A matter of some concern and regret is that the small market towns such as Aylsham, Reepham, Cawston and Foulsham which have long traditions of community life, are barely holding their own and in some cases actually losing population; while nearly all the hamlets under 400 parishioners have decreased considerably. Not only do the actual numbers of the population of the fringe parishes differ from those in the outer borders of the district but as the following table shows in a striking manner, there is a great contrast between the proportions in the constituent age groups in 7 parishes with over 1,000 population for which the relevant data are available.

(The percentages are approximate).

		<i>Children (under 15)</i>	<i>Women (15-44)</i>	<i>All persons (45-65)</i>	<i>Total persons 65+</i>	<i>Total persons over 45</i>
Aylsham	...	21%	20%	21%	22%	43%
Coltishall	...	21%	21%	20%	14%	34%
Hellesdon	...	22%	22%	23%	13%	36%
Rackheath	...	33%	23%	12%	7%	20%
St. Faith's	...	21%	26%	25%	15%	40%
Sprowston	...	23%	22%	22%	11%	34%
Wroxham	...	20%	19%	23%	19%	41%
<i>All Rural Districts</i>	...	22%	19%	22%	12%	35%

Contrast the percentage of over 65's in Wroxham and Aylsham with Rackheath, Hellesdon and Sprowston or the total percentage of those over 45 in the same parishes, 41% for Wroxham and Aylsham compared with 20% for Rackheath. The large percentage of children in Rackheath must be partly due to the undue preponderance of large families at Rackheath Park in 1951, but even allowing for this the parish can be classed as a "young" one. It is no wonder that it shows great initiative in fulfilling its own needs by voluntary effort. In the same way, it is obvious why Aylsham had the distinction of starting one of the first of Norfolk's Old People's Clubs.

The high rate of natural increase (15.3) the highest in the county, shows that our new population were mainly younger couples with families, which is supported by the above figures for the fringe parishes and this should augur well for the future social health of the district. However, in only 3 of the 7 parishes does the total percentage of children under 15 equal or exceed the average for Norfolk Rural Districts or England and Wales (22%), namely Hellesdon, Sprowston and Rackheath.

Comment.

Obviously, the restriction in private building between 1939 and 1951 meant that most of the new householders have been housed in Council dwellings and the parishes in which most houses have been built have naturally acquired the largest number of immigrants. It is difficult to see how the pattern could be altered by planned house-building alone, for houses will be built where there is the demand, whoever builds them.

Is there any end to this increasing conurbation? Can real planning be brought into play, so that it becomes as desirable to live in a self-contained, well-serviced community such as Aylsham as to occupy just another suburban dwelling on an easy bus route to the City?

The social life of many of these more remote parishes seems to be so vigorous and self-supporting that it comes as a shock to find that over the years, less and less people have been inclined to live in them.

Is the answer more light industry better distributed over the countryside? If so, who is to make the first move, the local Chamber of Trade, the Town and Country Planning Authority, or who?

To sum up, the district is increasing rapidly, the hamlet is disappearing, the smaller town and larger village are ageing and fighting for survival, while suburbia grows apace? Quo Vadis?

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The weather of 1954 will long be remembered for its lack of sunshine, only 81% of normal being registered throughout the year. Nearly every month was short of sun except September, which had a little above average. In November and December the amounts were about normal for the season.

The year was also remarkable for a very bad summer from the agricultural and holiday point of view, with abnormally low temperatures and incessant rain. Even September, the best summer month, had 21 rainy days, a record for the local weather station.

After a mild start, the winter really began at the end of January with exceptionally low temperatures and prolonged frost. There was more snow at the beginning of March, and the rest of the year, until September, could be described as very cold and very wet, the night of June 30th producing 6 degrees of ground frost. The only spells of summer weather during the year were two short ones in May and a few days at the beginning of September.

The year relented a little towards the end and December was reasonably warm with little rain.

Altogether, 1954 was a year with which other years will be compared, usually to their advantage.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 566 live births and 567 deaths registered during the year, which is 10 more births and 57 more deaths than in 1953. Illegitimate births amounted to 23, compared with 31 the year before.

The birth rate has risen slightly to 14.72 from 14.6 and the crude death rates from 10.34 to 14.74. The infant mortality rate reached a record low figure of 15.9.

After adjustment for age and sex the local birth rate becomes 15.9 which is above the rate for England and Wales (15.2). The death rate similarly adjusted becomes 13.55 compared with 11.3 for the whole country.

By a re-arrangement of death returns, the rural district now has allocated to it all deaths in chronic sick hospitals and nursing homes. As there are two very large hospitals and other hostels and nursing homes for elderly people, this is reflected in the higher death rate, even after adjustment for age and sex. Similarly, fatal accidents to Servicemen stationed in the district appear in these returns.

There were 36 deaths between the ages of 1 and 40 from the following causes:—

Violence	...	...	...	...	...	13
(Road (2) and Flying (10) accidents, Suicide (1))						
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cardiovascular disease	...	...	...	...	...	4
Malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital disabilities	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute illness	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3 of these deaths occurred in chronic sick hospitals).						

There were nine deaths of infants under one year and it is notable that none of these was caused by preventable or infectious disease. All but two occurred on the day of birth and were mainly unavoidable, being due to prematurity and congenital malformations. This would suggest that a limit to the reduction in the infant mortality rate (15.9) has nearly been reached and that improved infant care alone cannot reduce it further.

There were six deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, one more than last year but only one of these was under the age of 55.

Again the commonest causes of death were heart (coronary thrombosis 49) and circulatory disease, and malignant disease (including cancer) (100) compared with 62 in 1953, cancer of the lung (14) compared with 8 in 1953. Just under half the cases of cancer died in chronic sick hospitals in the district.

42% of all deaths occurred in hospitals or similar institutions and of the total number for the district 78% took place over the age of 70 and 37% over the age of 80. Two died at 99 and one at 100.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 1198 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, compared with 361 in 1953. The increase was entirely due to large epidemics of measles and whooping cough which accounted for 1056 notifications. The general incidence was the same as last year with minor variations such as increase in food poisoning and a decrease in dysentery.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 72 cases of scarlet fever, 3 less than last year, the bulk of them occurring in Sprowston and Hellesdon during February, March and April. The increased prevalence at Sprowston was dealt with by routine swabbing of affected school classes and the few nasal carriers found were excluded from school and treated. After about a month new cases ceased, only one case was admitted to hospital and no complications were reported.

Measles.

Increased prevalence of measles was noticed at the end of 1953 and the number of cases continued to rise in 1954 to reach a peak in April when 170 cases were notified. The numbers fell in May and June but rose again to a second lower peak in July, falling rapidly to zero for the rest of the year. The total notifications for the year amounted to 752.

The major outbreak was at Hellesdon where 180 cases were notified, with the parishes of Cawston, Sprowston and Wroxham having about 60 cases each.

The epidemic was widespread in the district and few parishes escaped entirely. Five cases were admitted to hospital and one of these died. The fatal case was a girl of five who developed a very rare complication, encephalitis. She died the day she was admitted. The other hospital cases suffered from broncho-pneumonia or convulsions but all of them made good recoveries. It is interesting to note that 25 adults over the age of 15 contracted the disease, 17 of these being females, in many cases no doubt the mothers of affected children.

Whooping Cough.

There was a total of 301 cases of Whooping Cough compared with 70 in 1953.

Increased prevalence began in March and over 40 cases were notified in each of the months of April and May. After a slight recession in June, the figures rose again in July to a peak in August and September, when there were 90 cases. Following this peak the numbers dropped rapidly to very low figures for the rest of the year.

The parishes most affected were Aylsham and Foulsham though a few cases were reported from each of several other places. Four cases were admitted to hospital but there were none fatal. As over half the cases were infants and children under school age this is a very satisfactory outcome of quite a large epidemic.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to assess what part, if any, protective vaccination has played in modifying the severity of the attacks. Only a small proportion of the child population have been so protected and it will be some years before its effect can be assessed locally.

Poliomyelitis.

For the second year in succession no case of poliomyelitis was notified. One girl, whose home is in the district, contracted a mild, non-paralytic infection while at a residential school in another district. She made a complete recovery and her illness did not appear to have had its origin in her home environment.

Diphtheria.

Again no cases of diphtheria was notified. It is now 4 years since a confirmed case occurred in this rural district. This continuing good fortune must be attributed to the high degree of immunity maintained by the immunisation of the child population.

It cannot be too often emphasised that diphtheria can only be kept at bay by protecting each generation of children in their first year and continuing to give boosting doses as required during school life.

Enteric Group.

No case of typhoid or paratyphoid was notified.

Dysentry.

This year there were 15 cases of dysentry compared with 18 in 1953, involving 7 households. There were 6 cases notified by doctors and the investigations of the contacts of these brought the rest of them to light.

Two families had workers in the same factory where infection was suspected, although never actually proved. All the members of one household were infected by their domestic help, whose three children were found to be infected. One case was traced to cheese, infected by a food handler in another district, and another contracted the disease from the family with whom he took his mid-day meal in the city.

The varying standards of personal hygiene in all economic grades of the population is noteworthy. In many incidents, one patient only was found whereas, in others every member of the household was infected, either with frank illness or as symptomless carriers. The fact that the infection can go through the whole family should make the head of the household think seriously about rules of toilet hygiene. A good example in this matter from the adults would help to bring up the next generation in safer and more cleanly habits. It should be an invariable rule in every house that everyone should wash their hands after using the toilet, a simple procedure indeed to prevent the spread of infections of bowel origin.

Cases were infectious for periods of 2 to 6 weeks, the adults taking longer to clear on an average than the children.

Food Poisoning.

Fourteen cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year and two symptomless contact carriers were discovered. In addition there were 4 cases which appeared clinically to be food poisoning though no infective agent was identified.

The organism isolated from all but one case was salmonella typhimurium, the exception being salmonella enteritidis (Danysz Strain). All the cases occurred in the autumn months. In no case was it possible to identify the article of food responsible for the poisoning. All food had usually been either consumed or destroyed before the investigation was started and none remained for sampling. There appeared to be no common food source and the six single cases had no connection with one another.

Apart from these single incidents, there was a small outbreak due to salmonella typhimurium which was traced to a children's party. Five adults and fourteen children attended the party, and nine of the children either took ill or became symptomless carriers, none of the adults was affected. Several of the affected children lived in the City. The article of food suspected was sausage rolls but none remained for sampling.

One notable feature of this infection is the length of time cases take to clear, particularly young children, 8 or 9 weeks convalescent carrier state being common.

In none of these cases was it possible to incriminate ducks or duck eggs in any form, although of course the latter may have been used for cakes. No infected food-handler was discovered but in the case of the party incident it was considered that inadequate food storage in a small house may have been a factor in the multiplication of organisms in some insufficiently cooked article of food.

Staphylococcal Food Poisoning.

There was a small outbreak of four cases of staphylococcal food poisoning at Foulsham in May. Three of the patients lived in a caravan and admitted having bought pork cheeses which they had kept overnight in very warm weather, eating them the next day. The fourth sufferer was a Foulsham resident who had also had pork cheese from the same consignment.

The butcher's premises appeared to be clean and well kept and the business conducted in a hygienic manner.

It was presumed that the pork had become infected during some stage of preparation and insufficiently sterilised by the cooking process. Warm weather and inadequately cooled larders must have hastened the multiplication of germs and their toxins. It may be that only one small portion of the meat was infected or that only four people kept it in a warm place overnight but no other cases were reported, although the whole consignment of cheeses was sold and presumably eaten.

All patients made a rapid and complete recovery.

General Comment.

There is no doubt that the handling, preparation and storage of food in this country still leaves much room for improvement. Too much actual handling, not enough hand washing and insufficient refrigeration are the main defects of our present methods.

TUBERCULOSIS

Mortality.

There were six deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, four male and two female, which is one more than last year. All but one male aged twenty-three were elderly patients over 55 and two were over 75.

It can no longer be said that tuberculosis is a major killing disease of young people. There has been a dramatic fall in mortality and such deaths as do occur mainly affect the higher age groups.

Again there were no deaths from non-pulmonary disease.

Incidence.

There were 16 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, 9 male and 7 female, which is 8 less than in 1953, when there were 18 male and 8 female. This is the second year in which there has been a greatly reduced incidence, again chiefly affecting the male sex. The majority of male cases were over 35, some were notified as late as 75. The latter must be due to belated diagnosis of longstanding disease as it is unlikely that new infection would occur so late in life. The females do not show this tendency as only one new case was over 45.

There were 3 new cases of non-pulmonary type, all female, 2 children and 1 adult. The children both had disease of the neck glands and the adult an abdominal form.

The routine investigation of the milk supply was made in each case but in no case could infection be traced to a bovine source.

Treatment.

The number of admissions to the Sanatoria were as follows:—

			Male	Female	Total
1947	...	...	...	3	2
1948	...	...	...	3	3
1949	...	...	...	6	4
1950	...	...	...	9	9
1951	...	...	...	14	16
1952	...	...	...	19	23
1953	...	...	...	14	15
1954	...	...	...	13	7
Cases admitted before 1.1.54 and still in hospital during 1954			2	2	4
Average length of stay six months.					

Prevention.

Young and susceptible contacts continue to be offered B.C.G. vaccination which is now nearly always accepted by parents.

B.C.G. Vaccination of School Leavers.

For the first time in this district routine tuberculin testing was offered to 13-year-old pupils of Hellesdon and Sprowston Modern Secondary Schools. This was an extension of a pilot scheme which had been carried out for some years in the King's Lynn area.

The results of the procedure were as follows:—

	<i>*No.</i>	<i>eligible</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>B.C.G.</i>
Hellesdon Modern Secondary	91	71 (70)	15	55	55	
Percentage ...	—	78%	21.1%	—	—	
Sprowston Modern Secondary	72	59 (53)	11	42	42	
Percentage ...	—	81.9%	20.75%	—	—	

(*No. eligible means number in age group less those who have already been dealt with as contacts of cases. Figures in "Accepted" column in brackets represent the actual number tested less absentees on that day.)

Positive reactors are known to have met infection at some time in their lives and to have reacted to it. It was considered wise to X-ray them and their household contacts in case their infection should be recent and active. This was explained to the parents or guardians in each case and all agreed to attend for chest examination.

Negative reactors were given B.C.G. vaccination and retested after six weeks interval by which time all those treated had become positive.

It will be interesting and instructive to follow this age group through the susceptible years of young adult life and see what effect this vaccination will have on the incidence of tuberculosis amongst the vaccinated, the positives and the refusers.

Like all public health matters, this scheme needs a long view and results can only be assessed in the years to come. Meanwhile, it is hoped that this useful procedure will be extended to cover all school leavers in the district at an early date.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

Visit to Aylsham.

For the first time in St. Faith's and Aylsham Rural District, a visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was arranged.

The unit was operating in the Ian Sears Clinic at Aylsham from March 2nd for about a week. Preliminary organising work was done from an office set up at the local Exchange of the Ministry of Labour for a fortnight before the Unit arrived.

Propaganda consisted of posters and bills displayed in Aylsham and surrounding villages, the use of a loud-speaker van in Aylsham by the Unit Secretary and the distribution of application forms and handbills in several villages by the Cadets of St. John Ambulance Brigade. A total of 1442 persons (920 males and 522 females) attended the Unit for X-ray. Out of this number 20 cases were referred for further investigation.

The following conditions were discovered:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cases of pulmonary T.B. found:—			
Active Cases ...	...	...	—
Cases requiring observation at Chest Clinic	6	2	8
Inactive Post Primary Lesions ...	...	1	—
Previously Diagnosed Cases ...	...	1	—

Among other diseases discovered were:—

Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	...	7
Atypical Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Pulmonary Fibrosis	...	...	...	1
Basal Fibrosis	...	...	...	9
Bronchial Carcinoma	...	...	...	1
Foreign Body	...	...	...	2
Cystic Lung	...	...	...	1
Dextrocardia	...	...	...	1
Diaphragm—Hernia	...	...	...	1
Paralysis	...	...	...	1
Cardiovascular Lesions—Acquired		...	...	6

As expected, the largest attendance was from Aylsham with 465, followed by Reepham (111), Buxton (75) and Cawston (73). In all, people attended from 27 parishes, from as far away as Foulsham and St. Faith's, although the numbers in many cases were very small, while 255 came from other districts. Considering the population which could have attended, the response was disappointing but perhaps the propaganda was not sufficiently intensive, or directed at the right age groups.

In 1955, it is hoped that the Unit will visit Wroxham for a few days and we ought then to be able to improve on our results at Aylsham.

I sincerely trust that this very valuable diagnostic apparatus will be used to the full by all adult members of the population whenever it holds sessions within a reasonable distance of their homes or places of work.

GENERAL SICKNESS STATISTICS.

The weekly returns of the 5 local offices of the Ministry of National Insurance continued to be received during the year. These give the number of new sickness claims made each week in respect of offices at Cromer, Dereham, Fakenham, Norwich and Wymondham. Although none of these offices covers only this rural district the tabulation of all of them does give a reasonable picture of the position among the working population.

During 1954, the rate for the first week in January went up to double the previous week of December, 1953. This rate remained constant for all the offices until about February 16th, after which it returned fairly rapidly to the average for the season. No serious epidemic was reported and the cases of Influenza which were investigated proved to be due to the less virulent virus B and there were only two deaths notified from this cause.

For the remainder of the year the rates remained within average limits for the season.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Bulk samples of milk taken for biological examination proved positive to tuberculosis in three cases, namely, a herd of 21 cows at Coltishall, one

of 25 cows at Rackheath and a third of 45 cows at Great Witchingham. All the milk from two of these herds already went to the pasteurisation plant, so it was not necessary to issue a restriction notice in either case. The owner of the third herd had a retail round so a restriction notice was imposed requiring pasteurisation prior to sale.

Veterinary examination was carried out in each case. In one herd, a clinical diagnosis was made at once and a cow was slaughtered, the rest of the animals being found free from infection on biological sampling. In the second herd, no immediate diagnosis was possible, but after group sampling three infected cows were found and slaughtered. In the third herd, no infected cow or individual sample was discovered, but as two cows whose milk was in the primary positive bulk sample had been sold for slaughter, it was presumed that one or both of them must have been infectious.

In view of the above incidents, it was a great relief to hear that the Ministry of Food intended to extend the compulsory pasteurisation order to the district in the near future. The final order to this effect had not been received up to the end of December.

Anthrax Order, 1938.

No cases of Anthrax were notified during the year.

HOUSING.

Waiting List.

		1954	1953	1952
Applications at 31st December	...	677	965	1085

Analysis of Waiting List.

Size of {	Families with 2 or less children	616	863	960
Family {	Families with 3 or more children	61	102	125
Type of {	Agricultural workers	...	116	160
Family {	Others	...	561	805

Local Authority Houses.

Position at 31st December :

Pre-war	...	...	...	564	564	565
Post-war	...	...	...	966	882	822
				—	—	—
			Total	... 1530	1446	1387
				—	—	—

Total Houses Completed during the year :—

Local Authority Dwellings	...	...	84	60	138
Private Dwellings	...	...	283	250	68

Ex-Government Camps:

No. of families occupying these Camps at		1954	1953	1952	
31st December	...	...	35	77	104
Total number of applicants housed in Camps					
from waiting list during the year	...	—	2	11	

There was a reduction of nearly 300 families on the waiting list by the end of 1954, 84 new houses were completed by the Council and 283 private dwellings were erected.

Only 61 of the larger families, with 3 or more children, were still waiting for Council houses, and 116 of the total number were classed as agricultural workers.

Ex-Government Camps.

A further reduction in the number of hutments still being used as dwellings is a pleasing feature of the above table. Only 35 remained in occupation at the end of the year and it is greatly to be hoped that in next year's Report it will be possible to comment on the closure of the remainder.

Slum Clearance.

Again no great progress can be reported in the clearance of the slum property of the district. 15 individual unfit houses were dealt with during the year but considering the amount of grade V property noted in the Rural Housing Survey, 1951, it cannot be said that the problem has yet been adequately tackled.

Improvement of Older Houses.

A still larger number of property owners applied for improvement grants during the year and there is no doubt that this is one of the most beneficial measures yet devised for widespread and rapid upgrading of sound but old-fashioned houses and one which is being more and more appreciated.

WATER.

Further extensions of water mains in the Norwich Statutory Area of supply were completed early in the year in the parishes of Aylsham, Drayton, Taverham, Marsham and Buxton. The whole scheme, involving the laying of 20 miles of mains has been carried out since 1952 under a guarantee agreement given by the District Council.

A Local Inquiry was held by the Minister in November into the Council's Water Supply Scheme for the western part of the district; and at the end of the year authority was awaited for the preparation of a detailed scheme for the first stage, involving head works and water tower at Salle and water mains for Cawston, Reepham, Booton and Salle.

There was a small extension of the mains at Felthorpe from the Council house bore.

SEWERAGE.

A small extension was made to the Aylsham Sewerage Scheme at the rear of the Town Hall.

Negotiations continued during 1954 with regard to the Faiblo Scheme affecting part of the parish of Sprowston, and it was anticipated that the work of sewer laying would start early in 1955.

SOCIAL HEALTH AND WELFARE.

No new Old People's Clubs were started in 1954, but the existing 20 continued to flourish and supply a very real social need among the older members of the community. The time and place of meetings of existing

Clubs is given below:—

Aylsham	...	Foresters' Clubroom	...	Friday	2.30—5 p.m.
Buxton & Lamas		Village Hall (Alternate)	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
Old Catton	...	Parish Hall	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
Cawston	...	Memorial Institute	...	Friday	2.30—4.30 p.m.
Coltishall	...	Central Hall	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
Drayton	...	Village Hall	...	Wednesday	3—5 p.m.
St. Faith's	...	Church Hall	...	Wednesday	3—5 p.m.
				(Alternate)	
Foulsham	...	Frost Hall	...	Friday	2.30—5 p.m.
Hainford	...	Village Hall	...	Tuesday	2.30—5 p.m.
Hellesdon	...	Speedway Clubroom	...	Friday	3—5 p.m.
Horsford	...	Village Hall	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
Marsham	...	Reading Room, High St.		Tuesday	2.45—5 p.m.
Oulton	...	Village Hall	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
				(Alternate)	
Reepham	...	Sun Hall	...	Friday	2.30—5 p.m.
Salhouse	...	Women's Institute Hut	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
				(except 2nd)	
Spixworth	...	Social Hall	...	Wednesday	2.30—5 p.m.
				(1st and 3rd except August)	
Sprowston	...	Toc H Hut, Recreation Ground Rd.		Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
Swannington	...	The Rectory	...	Thursday	2.30—4.30 p.m.
Gt. Witchingham		The Bridge Clubroom	...	Thursday	2.30—5 p.m.
Wroxham	...	Horse Shoes Hotel	...	Tuesday	2.30—5 p.m.
				(Alternate)	

A survey of the remaining parishes showed that there were no more suitable places for the formation of Clubs. I feel, however, that there can be no parish which has not at least a few elderly people whose lives would be fuller and more interesting if they were linked to a larger group of their contemporaries. It should be possible so to zone the smaller villages that each has a flourishing club within a not too impossible distance. Even occasional visits, by kindly neighbours providing transport, would enable those from the smaller villages to enjoy some of the benefits of club life and to participate in some of the special outings and entertainments provided by most clubs during the year.

COUNTY SERVICES.

Infant Welfare.

The only changes in the Infant Welfare Service are the change of premises at Hellesdon and an increase to weekly sessions for Sprowston from November.

After the closure of the offices of the Ministry of Food, the responsibility for the distribution of National Welfare Foods passed to the County Council. Existing distribution points were maintained and new ones established where deemed necessary.

A complete list of Welfare Centres and distribution points for National Welfare Foods is given overleaf:—

*Address from which National Welfare Foods are obtainable.
(Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated)*

Parish.	I.W.C.	Day.	Time.	
*Aylsham	... Ian Sears Clinic	First Friday every month	2—4	Mr. G. R. Oke, 14, Market Place.
*Buxton	... Reading Room	Second Tuesday every month	2—4	Mrs. Ayden, Mill Street. Nurse Woods, Brook Street.
Cawston	... Memorial Institute	First Tuesday every month	2—4	Post Office Stores, High Street. Nurse's Bungalow, Norwich Road.
Coltishall	... Church Room	First Wednesday every month	2—4	Messrs. Roys Ltd., The Stores.
Felthorpe	...	...	...	Messrs. Carter & Potter, Post Office Stores.
*Foulsham	... Nurse's House	Last Wednesday every month	2—4	Mr. Hamilton, The Stores. Nurse Bryan, 8, Bexfield Road.
*Hainford	... Parish Hall	First Thursday every month	2—4	Post Office Stores.
Hellesdon	... Speedway Clubroom	First and third Mondays every month	2—4	Mr. Youngman, 79, Reepham Road.
*Hevingham	... St. John Ambulance Brigade H.Q.	Third Friday every month	2—4	Mr. Helps, Town Street. (Tuesday, 2—5 p.m.).
*Honingham	... Institute	First Tuesday every month	2—4	
*Horsham St. Faith's	... Mission Room	... Last Thursday every month	2—4	Mrs. Linfoot, 3, Douglas Close. Mr. Whitbread, The Stores, Newton St. Faith's.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>I.W.C.</i>	<i>Day.</i>	<i>Time.</i>	<i>Address from which National Welfare Foods are obtainable. (Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated)</i>
*Horsham St. Faith's ...	R.A.F. Station (attended by R.A.F. Medical Officer)	First and third Tuesday every month	2—4	Mrs. Williams, Swan Street.
*Horsford	Parish Hall ...	Second Thursday every month	2—4	Mrs. Annison, The Stores.
*Lenwade	Memorial Hall ...	Second Monday every month	2—4	Mrs. Rowlands, Bridge Stores.
Marsham	...			Mr. Hadnett, The Stores.
Rackheath	...			Mr. Gage, nr. Post Office.
*Reepham	Bircham Institute	Second Friday every month	2—4	Mrs. Hardiment, Market Place.
Salhouse	Women's Institute	Last Wednesday every month	2—4	Mr. Coe, Post Office Stores.
*Spixworth	Social Hall ...	Third Thursday every month	2—4	Mrs. Giles, Park Road.
Sprowston	St. Cuthbert's Church Hall	Every Friday	2—4	Mr. Grigg, 199, Wroxham Road.
Swannington	...			Mrs. Spinks, The Stores.
Taverham	...			Mrs. Lane, “Lanal,” Fakenham Road.
Wroxham	Church Hall ...	First Wednesday every month	2—4	Messrs. Roys Ltd. Miss Woods, Bridge Stores.

*Denotes Village Weighing Centre where a Medical Officer attend only occasionally.

The only comment I would like to make on these arrangements is the tendency, growing more marked every year, to provide better and more comprehensive services for the larger and more urbanised centres of the population while the smaller and more rural parishes have less or none. This applies particularly to infant welfare although many other services could be similarly indicted. The regular visit of a Medical Officer to a village remote from a doctor's surgery, with even the district nurse perhaps a few miles away, can be a real boon to mothers of infants and young children. This is one of the "amenities" the urban and suburban mother comes to take as a matter of course but may be considered by the rural worker to be just one more of those things which make him look to the town as a more desirable place to live.

General Welfare Services.

The County Welfare Officers continue to provide general services throughout the district.

In addition to the headquarters at the Local Health Office, Aspland Road, Norwich, there is the following contact point where the public can obtain advice:—

Bircham Institute, Reepham, Wednesday afternoons. 3.30—4 p.m.

GENERAL SURVEY.

The health of the district has been good in spite of the outstandingly bad weather during the year.

The record low infant mortality rate is an indication of good community health and excellent child welfare.

The progress with water and sewerage schemes, though still too slow, is being maintained.

Although grade V property has been ascertained, little slum clearance has yet begun.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support at all times and to congratulate the staff of the Public Health Department on the volume and efficiency of the work they carry out, often under great pressure.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) IRENE B. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	93,005
Population (Census 1931)	25,648
Population (Census 1951)	37,623
Population (Estimated Resident 1954)	38,460
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931)	7,660
Number of struturally separate dwellings (1954)	11,806
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1954	£125,306
Estimated Net Produce of Penny Rate	£685

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfer as furnished by the Registrar General:

	Total	Males	Females	St. Faith's & Aylsham 1954	England & Wales 1953	England & Wales 1954
LIVE BIRTHS						
Legitimate ...	543	277	266	Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	14.72	14.6
Illegitimate ...	23	13	10			
Total ...	566	290	276			

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate ...	14	3	11	Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	0.73	0.40
Illegitimate ...	14	3	11			
Total ...	28	6	22			

DEATHS

Total ...	567	308	259	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	14.74	10.34	11.3
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Deaths from puerperal causes—Nil.

INFANT DEATHS

		Total	Males	Females	St. Faith's & Aylsham 1954	England & Wales 1953	England & Wales 1954
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	8	5	3
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births		15.90	28.83	25.50	15.90	28.83	25.50

Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)

<i>Ages</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1st day	...	...	...	...	4	2
1-7 days	...	...	...	—	1	1
1-4 weeks	...	...	...	—	—	—
1-3 months	...	...	...	—	1	1
3-6 months	...	...	...	—	—	—
6-9 months	...	...	...	—	—	—
9-12 months	...	...	...	1	—	1
				—	—	—
				5	4	9

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	4	2	6
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	2	—	2
4	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	—	1	1
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	3	1	4
10	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	10	6	16
11	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung or Bronchus	12	2	14	
12	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	—	8	8
13	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	—	6	6
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	30	26	56	
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	...	—	3	3
16	Diabetes	...	4	—	4
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	48	55	103
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	33	16	49
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	6	13	19
20	Other Heart Disease	...	50	62	112
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	12	14	26
22	Influenza	...	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia	...	9	7	16
24	Bronchitis	...	13	4	17
25	Other Disease of Respiratory System	...	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	6	—	6
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	5	1	6
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	4	—	4
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	...	2	2	4

					Males	Females	Total
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease	...		33	20	53	
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	4	1	5	
34	All Other Accidents	...	...	9	6	15	
35	Suicide	...	...	7	1	8	
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes		...	...	308	259	567	
				—	—	—	

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS, 1954.

Age Groups	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-30	30-40	40-50	50-65	65-75	75-85	85 and Over	Total
Totals	8	1	3	13	11	15	95	144	200	77	567

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables: the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted		Notification Rate per 1,000 Population 1954	
		to Hospital	St. Faith's & Aylsham	England & Wales	
Scarlet Fever ...	72	1	1.87	.96	
Whooping Cough	304	4	7.80	2.39	
Measles ...	752	5	19.55	3.32	
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	0.04	
Pneumonia ...	27	1	0.70	0.59	
Dysentery ...	6	1	0.15	0.72	
Erysipelas ...	3	—	0.07	0.12	
Infective Jaudice	5	1	0.13		
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	4	0.34		
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	2	—	0.05		
Food Poisoning	14	1	0.36	0.20	
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	0.01	
	1198	18			
	—	—			

Disease	Ages												Total	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65+	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	4	5	55	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	72
Whooping Cough ...	28	26	35	42	33	125	8	3	3	1	—	—	—	304
Measles ...	19	60	50	72	80	415	31	11	10	4	—	—	—	752
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	5	4	6	2	—	4	27
Dysentery ...	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	6
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	...	3
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	3	1	—	—	—	—	13
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorium	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	3	—	2	1	14
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	50	86	88	118	119	602	49	33	23	19	2	2	7	1198

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1954 are given in the following tables:—

Age Periods	New Cases						Deaths					
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—	...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
65—	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
upwards	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	7	—	3	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory ...	102	93	195
Non-Respiratory ...	18	35	53
Totals ...	120	128	248

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1954

I have the honour of presenting the following report for the year 1954.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY AND OTHER WORK.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts ...	...	...	...	...	1122
Revisits to ascertain progress of work ...	...	...	...	...	262
Inspections under the Housing Acts ...	...	...	...	...	446
Revisits to ascertain progress of work ...	...	...	...	...	256
Inspections and revisits of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	102
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	173
Inspection of Dairies	...	...	...	...	49
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	41
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1231
Inspections of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	309
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	46
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	...	...	...	...	655
Inspections of Sewerage and Water Supply Works operating and under construction	...	...	...	...	1403
Visits to Premises in connection with Proposed Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes	...	...	...	...	254
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	436
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	50
Other visits interviewing owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	527
Inspections under Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	3089
					10451

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 1231 visits were made to slaughterhouses, of which all except 30 were made at the time of slaughter and dressing of meat.

The following carcases were examined:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	4006
Pork	...	...	...	...	19378
Mutton	...	...	...	...	5404
Veal	...	...	...	...	1518
					30306

The decontrol of slaughtering on the 2nd July resulted in a very considerable increase in the work of meat inspection. Prior to decontrol there was one slaughterhouse in the district operated by the Ministry of Food and on decontrol licences were issued for 13 slaughterhouses. At five of these slaughterhouses meat is prepared for the wholesale market and the resulting number of carcases slaughtered is far in excess of the needs of this district. A large quantity of meat is consigned for consumption

over a wide area in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and also in London. The following figures indicate the large increase in the work involved:—

From 1st January to 30th June—145 visits were made to inspect 6118 carcases.

From 1st July to 31st December—1056 visits were made to inspect 24188 carcases.

At the larger slaughterhouses slaughtering is carried on well into the evening, and also on Saturdays and Sundays and at one is carried on all through the Saturday night. Although two additional inspectors were appointed and a considerable amount of overtime was worked it still proved quite impossible to inspect all carcases. For instance, information obtained indicated that between 1st July and 31st December the number of carcases not inspected was 12,844. The position is therefore far from being satisfactory and there is definitely need for some control within reasonable limits of times of slaughtering. As it is this work of meat inspection severely taxes the resources of the department and is only part of the work which needs to be done. It is most desirable that all meat should be inspected and marked at the time of slaughter but to do this under present conditions would demand a very large increase of the staff.

Apart from this there is another aspect. It appears to be the general assumption that the inspection of meat with marking at the slaughterhouses will ensure that all meat is safe for human consumption and, with almost all the traders this will be justified. However, during the period of control there were very stringent regulations but as is well known there was trading in the "Black Market" which was very difficult to trace and check. I recall the few cases which were discovered, in some of which the carcases were badly diseased. Is it safe to assume that there is not the possibility of trading in such carcases still occurring? The concentration of inspection almost entirely at slaughterhouses might tend to encourage it. It is therefore desirable that there is a reserve in the staff to ensure there is sufficient time to exercise the vigilance to prevent such trading.

The following is a summary of the meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and the bracketed figures indicate the number which were affected with Tuberculosis:

BEEF—

Carcases and all Offal	39	(15)	Heads and Tongues	...	243	(156)	
Forequarters	...	6	(6)	Tongues	...	54	(24)
Part Forequarters	...	38	(17)	Lungs	...	230	(58)
Hindquarters	...	10	(9)	Hearts	...	40	(9)
Part Hindquarters	...	32	(13)	Livers	...	533	(59)
Tails	...	...	12	Part Livers	...	600	
Hocks	...	...	5	Kidneys and fat	...	26	(11)
Thick Skirts	...	30	(2)	Spleens	...	11	(3)
Thin Skirts	...	19	(5)	Mesenteries	...	186	(123)
Beef Trimmings	lbs.	137		Tripes	...	6	(3)

PORK—

Carcases and all Offal	102	(7)	Plucks ...	...	... 1085	(16)
Forequarters ...	2	(2)	Livers ...	...	... 472	(5)
Part Forequarters ...	52	(2)	Hearts and Lungs ...	...	... 479	(4)
Hindquarters ...	2		Tongues ...	...	... 3	(3)
Part Hindquarters ...	84	(1)	Kidneys and fat ...	...	... 11	(2)
Hocks ...	125		Spleens ...	...	... 1	
Udders ...	5	(2)	Mesenteries ...	...	... 69	(64)
Pork Trimmings	lbs. 260		Stomachs & Intestines	58	(1)	
Heads ...	356	(343)	Pancreas Glands ...	40		

MUTTON—

Carcases and all Offal	25	Plucks ...	...	...	75
Heads ...	9	Part Forequarters ...	...	...	2
Livers ...	503	Part Hindquarters ...	...	...	1
Part Livers ...	12				

VEAL—

Carcases and all Offal	30	Heads ...	...	...	1
Livers ...	79	Trimmings ...	lbs.	4	
Part Livers ...	6	Part Forequarters ...	...	9	
Plucks ...	12	Part Hindquarters ...	...	4	
Kidneys ...	2				

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED—

Meat ...	...	...	tins	697	Flour ...	...	...	lbs.	13
Milk ...	...	...	tins	525	Meat Extract ...	...	...	jar	1
Fruit ...	...	...	tins	295	Jam ...	...	...	jars	2
Vegetables ...	...	...	tins	114	Dates ...	...	...	boxes	15
Fish ...	...	...	tins	20	Sauce ...	...	...	bottles	3
Soup ...	...	...	tins	4	Bacon ...	...	...	lbs.	477
Meat Paste ...	...	...	jar	1	Rice ...	...	...	lbs.	10
Biscuits ...	...	...	pkts	27	Macedoines ...	...	...	tin	1
Orange Juice ...	...	bottle		1	Pie Filling ...	...	...	tin	1
Cereals ...	...	...	pkts	7	Dried Fruit ...	...	...	lbs.	109
Cheese ...	...	...	lbs.	1,255 $\frac{3}{4}$	Cod Fillets ...	...	...	lbs.	4
Cheese ...	...	...	boxes	7					

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging service continued to operate successfully and very few complaints were received.

In the 48 parishes in the district house refuse is collected weekly in 31 and fortnightly in 17. Night soil is collected weekly in all parishes but in Aylsham, Gt. Witchingham and Reepham collection is twice weekly from houses where there are larger families. However in Aylsham the need for this branch of service is steadily decreasing as connections are made to the sewers.

The four cesspool emptiers removed 7,767 loads from cesspools during the year and the demand for this service is steadily increasing.

All the work is carried out by direct labour and 31 men are employed and 15 vehicles used.

The extension of the Council's depot was completed during the year and consisted of additional garage and storage accommodation.

The salvage operations resulted in 65 tons of material being returned to industry and produced an income of £423 3s. 10d., which is almost double that for the previous year.

WATER SUPPLY.

There was no shortage of water found or reported during the year.

A small extension was made from the mains serving the Council house estate in Felthorpe to afford a piped supply of water to part of the village.

In the Norwich Corporation's Statutory Area considerable length of mains was laid extending from Drayton to serve the parish of Taverham. Further extensions were made in Aylsham, Buxton and Marsham.

However substantial progress has yet to be made in the comprehensive scheme of providing a supply of piped water in the western part of the district. At the end of the year approval for commencement of the work was still awaited.

The quality of the water is kept under careful observation and during the year a total of 426 samples were taken for examination. Samples were taken regularly at Foulsham, Lenwade, Weston Longville, Blickling and Felthorpe where the Council operates small public supplies and also at those Council Housing Estates where there is a piped supply. All the Council's wells providing a main source of supply are sunk into chalk and yield water of good quality but which is hard and in general contains a considerable quantity of iron in solution. However it was disturbing to find that in the autumn the water as pumped direct from the bore wells at Lenwade and Honingham contained bacteria. The reports on samples being as follows:—

At Lenwade ... 11 samples contained from 2 to 40 coliform bacilli per 100 ml and one contained 250 per 100 ml.

At Honingham 5 samples contained from 5 to 35 coliform bacilli per 100 ml.

In addition, on one occasion only the reports on samples at Burgh, Reepham and Swannington showed the presence of 2, 2 and 25 coliform bacilli per 100 ml respectively.

At Lenwade the water is chlorinated before passing to supply.

It was noted that this departure from normal arose after a period of prolonged and heavy rains and it may have been due to rapid penetration of these rains at those points in the district where there are out-crops of

chalk or the chalk is near the surface. Whatever the cause it gives rise to concern, particularly as with small schemes of supply where the employment of full time attendants is not justified and, in consequence the plant must work under automatic control, the efficient chlorination of the water is not easy. It has been considered and agreed that village schemes are more economic than large areas of supply which must of necessity have long lengths of mains serving only as links between villages. In such circumstances the purity of the water in the chalk, which is the only real water bearing stratum in this locality, is of paramount importance and every possible care and vigilance is needed to protect it.

SEWERAGE.

At Aylsham steady progress was made in connecting properties to the sewers recently provided, and 235 properties were connected during the year bringing the total number of properties connected to 451. It was anticipated that almost all the remaining properties would be connected during 1955. It was found necessary to provide a short length of sewer to receive drainage from premises in and near the Market Place.

Extensions to the sewers were provided on the Council's Housing Estates at Horstead, Salhouse and Sprowston for the new houses being erected.

At the end of the year it was anticipated that it would be possible to commence work on providing sewers in part of Sprowston, but unfortunately consent from the Ministry to proceed at Reepham had not been given.

HOUSING.

During the year 367 houses were completed in the district, 283 being erected by private enterprise and 84 by the Council. At the end of the year 247 houses were under construction by private enterprise and 46 by the Council.

Commencement was made in dealing with unfit houses, and the future use of 15 were considered. Four Demolition Orders were made and 11 undertakings not to use the houses for habitation were accepted by the Council.

Fortunately in this district there is not the congestion of houses which call for the making of many clearance areas. The active work carried out before the war removed almost all of the small number of such areas in the district. The houses therefore fall to be dealt with individually. Where houses are let it is often quite an uneconomic proposition to render them fit owing to high costs and the low rents. On the other hand it is found that a large number of houses are being acquired by persons occupying or proposing to occupy them when it is almost invariably found there is a very marked improvement in their condition. The houses may fall

below a desirable standard but the owner-occupiers usually take a pride in improving and maintaining them, and in these circumstances it is a safe assumption that they will remain reasonably habitable for a period of at least 15 years.

Then there are a large number of houses where the occupiers are old and have no desire, and are in fact, most unwilling to leave the house that has been their home for many years and probably the greater part of their lives. It is most problematical whether they would be so happy in a new house. There is therefore every need from a humanitarian point of view to retain the houses for the lifetime of the present occupiers if it is at all possible to do so, and to maintain them in a reasonable condition.

These factors will necessarily influence the carrying out of the slum clearance programme and call for a steady progress over a period of years rather than the immediate clearance of a large number of houses.

The Council is giving every encouragement to owners to improve their houses with the aid of Improvement Grants and the number of applications received is steadily increasing. During the year grants amounting to £4,465 were promised in respect of 18 houses. Nine other applications were under consideration at the end of the year. Eight applications were refused as the houses concerned did not meet the required standard.

There is a small number of caravans used for habitation in the district. The number of licences issued during the year was 27 and in each case the period was for one year, and some of these were for sites where the occupiers were building a house. The position does not call for the provision of a permanent camping site.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

During the year 931 plans of new proposed buildings were submitted for consideration under the Building Byelaws. The proposals varied between the small private garage and large factories. In addition to the examination of the plans frequent inspections are made of the buildings during erection.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 21 bakehouses in the district and it was not necessary to serve any notices in connection with these premises.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Only 141 complaints of infestation by rats or mice were received from occupiers during the year. Regular inspection of the district is made by members of the staff while carrying out their various duties and the rat catcher makes thorough inspections of large groups of premises from time to time, and altogether a total of 626 premises were treated during the year. No case of a really bad infestation was found and also there was no need for the use of statutory powers.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

The following is the work carried out in abating nuisances and remedying housing defects as a result of Informal and Statutory action taken during the year:—

HOUSING—

Sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	1
New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Piped water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	30
Well covers repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Pumps to wells repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	6
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	6
New pails provided to pail closets	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater gutters provided	...	...	...	...	—
Rainwater gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Window glazing replaced	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Doors and doorframes repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Coppers and ovens repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	1
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	1
Drains provided	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	2

DRAINAGE—

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools repaired	1

MISCELLANEOUS—

Accumulations of refuse removed	1
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In conclusion, I should again like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health for their support, and to express my appreciation to each member of the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

TUDOR HALL,
ROSE LANE, NORWICH.

(Signed) H. S. HAWKINS. A.M.I.S.E.

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